

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-02 PM-07 SCI-06 DLOS-07 L-03 CG-00

DOT-00 EUR-25 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 EPA-04 CEQ-02 DRC-01

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P 272020Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO HEADQUARTERS U.S.COAST GUARD WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0465

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 5912

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: PLOS CI

SUBJ: METULA SITREP 22

1. FOLLOWING METULA SITREP 22 WAS COMPILED FROM MESSAGES RECEIVED BY THIS EMASSY FROM COMMANDER THIRD NAVAL ZONE, CHILEAN NAVY IN PUNTA ARENAS AND FORWARDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION: METULA SITREP 22

AS OF 261230 SEPT 74;

1. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM ORELLA, SALVAGE TEAM OPERATION CAUSED SOME LOSS OF OIL POLLUTING WATERS DURING REFLOAT OPERATION DURING NIGHT OF 24/25 SEPT AND CONFIRMED BY SIGHTING DAYBREAK OF 25. SEPT. FLIGHT OBSERVATION ON 26 SEPT REVEALED FOLLOWING: NO INDICATION OF OIL SOUTHWEST OF SECOND NARROWING, NO SIGNS OF OIL IN THE WATER OR BEACH. BAHIA FELIPE WITH MUCH OIL ON THE BEACH AS WELL AS A FIFTY TO SIXTY METER WIDE STRIP OF OIL FLOATING ALONG THE COAST FROM PUNTA PIEDRA TO PUNTA MENDEZ. THIS LAST OBSERVATION WAS PROBABLY DUE TO THAT LOST DURING REFLOAT OPS AND THE STRONG WESTERN WIND WHICH HAS PERSISTED SINCE MORNING OF 25 SEPT. THERE IS SOME OIL ON THE BEACHES BETWEEN PUNTAS ANEGADA AND CATALINAN BUT FROM PREVIOUS DAYS. ON THE COAST NORTH OF STRAIT, LITTLE OIL WAS SIGHTED ON THE

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BEACH EXCEPT BETWEEN CAPE POSESION AND PUNTA DUNGENES WHERE OLDER

OIL STILL REMAINS. THERE WERE NO PATCHES OF OIL FLOWING OTU TO THE ATLANTIC.

2. METULA ANCHORED AT BAHIA FELIPE, ANCHORAGE NORMAL AND HOLDING WELL UNDER FORCE TEN WINDS. NO VISUAL EVIDENCE OF SEEPAGE.

3. BERGELAND WILL ARRIVE TODAY AND IT IS PLANNED TO HAVE HER COME ALONGSIDE METULA FOR OIL TRANSFER. FOR THE MOMENTO HARVELLA WILL REMAIN IN THE AREA IN CASE NEEDED.

AS OF 271040;

4. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM USCS ABOARD METULA THE FOLLOWING WAS POLLUTION PRODUCED DURING DAYS OF REFLOAT OPS: SEPT 23; VERY LIGHT SEEPAGE, A SLIGHT LOSS FOR A DURATION OF APPROX ONE HOUR. SEPT 24: MODERATE LOSS FROM THE DAMAGED TANKS IN SPITE OF EFFORTS TO PREVENT FPOLLUTION DURING THE REFLOAT OPERATION OF 25 SETP. WHILE ON TOW TO ANCHORAGE POINT, AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY OF OIL WAS LOST FOR AN UNKNOWN DURATION OF TIME ON 25 SETP. ONCE METULA WAS ANCHORED THERE WAS NO FURTHER LOSS.

5. PLANS FOR SALVAGE TEAM ARE FOR TRANSFER OF OIL FROM DAMAGED TANKS TO GOOD ONES, FROM 27-29 SETP. REMAINDER OF METULA OIL LOAD WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO BERGELAND APPROX 30 SEPT.
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